

**Public Notice on a Proposed Environmental Cooperative Agreement
between the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and
Madison Gas and Electric Company - Blount Generating Station, 717 East Main Street,
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin**

Pursuant to Section 299.80, Wis. Stats., the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is proposing to issue and enter into an Environmental Cooperative Agreement with Madison Gas and Electric Company under the Environmental Cooperation Pilot Program.

Blount Generating Station, located at 717 East Main Street, Madison, Dane County is an electric generating plant and employs about 80 people. Madison Gas and Electric Company volunteered to help Wisconsin DNR pilot new approaches to environmental regulation through the Environmental Cooperation Pilot Program. The Agreement contains the language that determines how DNR and Madison Gas and Electric Company will carry out the goals of the Environmental Cooperation Pilot Program. Public comments on the proposed Agreement are welcome.

Summary of the proposed Environmental Cooperative Agreement

The proposed Agreement would allow MGE to increase the use of waste materials as an energy source, but would not relax any emission standards. The agreement would also streamline some monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting requirements. In exchange for this operational flexibility, MGE would agree to a wide variety of voluntary actions intended to improve overall environmental performance. These voluntary actions would include projects designed to reduce air emissions and prevent stormwater pollution, efforts to increase the beneficial reuse of coal ash generated, and plans for reducing the use of mercury and PCB-containing materials. The complete proposal is available at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/cea/ecpp/agreements/>.

About the Environmental Cooperation Pilot Program

The Environmental Cooperation Pilot Program (Program) was introduced by Governor Thompson and passed by the State Legislature as part of the 1997 – 1999 Biennial Budget. It is designed to evaluate innovative environmental regulatory methods including whole-facility regulation. It encourages the use of systematic assessments of environmental impacts from this facility, and is designed to focus on reducing pollution in an efficient and cost effective manner. The Program provides increased flexibility for pilot facilities that not only maintain existing levels of environmental protection, but also go beyond and provide superior environmental performance. Furthermore, the Program encourages substantial public participation by those affected by the activities at the facility.

Opportunity for public to comment and/or request a public informational meeting

There is a 30-day public comment period associated with the proposed Environmental Cooperative Agreement, which will end 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. During the 30-day public comment period, DNR will accept written comments from the public regarding its proposed Environmental Cooperative Agreement with Madison Gas and Electric Company. These comments will be considered before a final decision is made on the agreement. Submit comments on the proposed actions by US Mail, fax or e-mail to John Shenot, the DNR project manager.

Also within the 30-day comment period, individuals may request a public informational meeting by submitting a written request to the DNR project manager. If DNR determines there is significant interest, DNR will hold a public informational meeting.

How DNR will make a final decision on the proposed action

In making a final decision on the proposed action, DNR will insure that the applicant has complied with all of the requirements in s. 299.80(6)(d), Wis. Stats. DNR will also review and consider all public comments received within the 30-day public comment period. In consultation with the project manager and other staff, the DNR Secretary will decide whether or not to sign and implement the Environmental Cooperative Agreement.

The decision by the Department to enter into an agreement is not subject to review under ch. 227, Wis. Stats. The agreement itself, once issued, is subject to review under ch. 227, Wis. Stats. To request a contested case hearing pursuant to s. 227.42, Wis. Stats., a person has 30 days after the agreement is issued to serve a petition for hearing upon the Secretary of the DNR. A request for contested case hearing should be made in accordance with s. NR 2.05(5), Wis. Adm. Code. The filing of a request for contested case hearing is not a prerequisite for judicial review under ch. 227, Wis. Stats., and does not extend the time limits for filing a petition for judicial review.

For additional information about the proposed agreement, please contact:

Department of Natural Resources	Madison Gas and Electric Company
John Shenot, Project Manager	Michael Ricciardi, Senior Director –
101 S. Webster St., P.O. Box 7921	Safety and Environmental Affairs
Madison, WI 53707-7921	P.O. Box 1231
John.Shenot@dnr.state.wi.us	Madison, WI 53701-1231
608-267-0802	mricciardi@mge.com
608-267-0496 fax	608-252-5627
	608-252-7098 fax

Additional information available

Copies of this Cooperative Agreement and a fact sheet describing the Agreement can be accessed via the Internet at: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/cea/ecpp/agreements/> or by contacting the DNR project manager, listed above.

Reasonable requests for the information in an alternate format will be provided to qualified individuals with disabilities.

For the Secretary:

/s/ Mark McDermid
Mark McDermid, Director
Bureau of Cooperative Environmental Assistance

July 23, 2002
Date